(c) details of action taken so far in the direction of developing these new findings towards Pharmaceutical therapy for Patenting and marketing the product to save several millions of cancer victims in the world from death, every year;

(d) whether Government would assure of releasing special package of funds in this most important and crucial field of "Gene Silencing" for speedy results; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Manika Pal Bhadra and Utpal Bhadra first demonstrated that gene silencing is involved in heterochromatin which is required for rapid cell division; these results have already been published in the prestigious journal Science (2004). In continuation to their work they recently found that several microRNAs are involved in heterochromatin formation. Diseases coupled with cell division and cell proliferation, such as various types of Cancers, appear to be controlled by heterochromatin formation and its functioning. Understanding the role of gene silencing through microRNAs thus might pave a way to use it as a possible therapy for cancers and other related diseases, which involve cell cycle controls.

(c) and (d) Several measures are being taken in the direction of the development of therapy for cancer. Besides preparing a detailed progress report for the application of these results for cancer treatment Scientists at CCMB have also prepared a detailed document for patent application. The programme as part of R&D activity of CCMB is receiving necessary financial support.

(e) Question does not arise.

Change in calculation of time

†1990. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether calculation of time has been changed in the Indian National Calendar;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether calculation of time on equinox (Sayan) basis is more scientific than solstice (Nirayan); and

(d) if so, the action that is being taken by Government to keep the same in vogue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Sayana solar system of reckoning dates is scientifically correct and has remained in National Calendar as the best option. For the sake of unification of divergent practices followed by regional Panchang makers, the Nirayana Calendric dates have been introduced in National Calendar as additional information, and the practice has been followed in Rashtriya Panchang.

Commercialization of research

1991. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to ensure quicker commercialization of research in scientific institutions and universities;

(b) if so, the details of such measures to be undertaken by Government;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to provide greater incentive to scientists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government also propose to bring in ten Nobel Laureates in different field of science and technology and interactive sessions between them and young scientists; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) It is imperative that commercialization of inventions in scientific institutions and universities takes place at a much quicker pace than at present. Several schemes